

**SPECIAL MEETING OF
COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
NO QUORUM
MEETING NOTES**

Thursday, November 9, 2017 (3:30 pm – 5:00 pm)

I. Introductions

- **Teleconference**
 - Commissioner Kim Wasserman, Chair
 - Commissioner Keith Harley
 - Commissioner Lore Baker – DHS – Housing
 - Commissioner Cheryl Johnson – People for Community Recovery
 - Pastor Vance – Faith in Place
 - Commissioner Veronica Kyle
- **Springfield**
 - Commissioner Chris Pressnall- IEPA Environmental Justice Officer
 - Alec Davis - IERG
 - Commissioner Jerry Peck – IMA
 - Crystal Myers-Wilkens – IEPA
- **Chicago**
 - No one at the James R. Thompson Center

II. Agenda

- Discuss draft letter to Illinois Power Agency (IPA) Director Anthony Star commenting on the draft Long-Term Renewable Resources Plan.

III. Discussion

- **Commissioner Peck**
 - Quorum must be eight Commissioners since there are 24 total
 - Must be present in person
- **Commissioner Pressnall**
 - Explained that the Open Meetings Act does not require boards and commissions that are solely advisory in nature, not binding, do not have an in-person requirement
- **Commissioner Peck**
 - Need a quorum plus one to vote for action so need nine total
- **Commissioner Harley**
 - Asked Alec Davis if he was a Commissioner
- **Alec Davis**

- Stated that he was not a Commissioner and that the appointed Commissioner from IERG is Brenda Carter, who has taken another position
- IERG may pursue an appointment in the future

➤ **Commissioner Harley**

- Commissioner present are Pressnall, Harley, Kyle, Peck, Wasserman and Baker

➤ **Chair Wasserman**

- Commission needs to revisit the factsheet
- Commission probably never voted on by-laws

➤ **Commissioner Peck**

- The fact sheet is less stringent
- Have poor attendance by legislators
- Since this is a public body, have to look to Open Meetings Act for guidance
- There are strict requirements in the Open Meetings Act

➤ **Chair Wasserman**

- In 2018, need to work on the by-laws

➤ **Commissioner Peck**

- Should the meeting continue?
- Can we take a vote on the letter, we do not have a quorum
- We should not discuss the letter

➤ **Chair Wasserman**

- Are we still currently at five Commissioners?

➤ **Commissioner Pressnall**

- Yes

➤ **Chair Wasserman**

- Thanked Commissioner Peck for his comments

➤ **Alec Davis**

- Did coordinate with Commissioner Peck on comments to the letter
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➤ **Chair Wasserman**

- We do not have a quorum
- Cannot come to a census
- Recommends that the Commission does not send a letter to IPA
- This is in-line with the principles of EJ
- Individuals should submit comments on their own
- Use format Commission working group developed as a guide

➤ **Commissioner Harley**

- Look to November 3 letter developed by the working group
- Commissioner's Peck letter is not in agreement
- Five Commissioners are not representative of the Commission as a whole

- **Commissioner Kyle**
 - Previously been able to reach a consensus
 - Need to send letters individually
 - By-laws were not created by the Commission as a whole
- **Commissioner Harley**
 - Only regret is all of the time that was spent by the working group, loss of time and effort by not sending the letter
 - Work will not go to waste
 - Quality of the ideas was good
- **Chair Wasserman**
 - Need to work on staffing the Commission
- **Commissioner Peck**
 - Will reach out to organized labor and power sector to staff the Commission
 - Set up meeting with Commissioner Pressnall to see if a good fit
- **Chair Wasserman**
 - Thanked Commissioner Peck
- **Commissioner Harley**
 - There are no hard feelings and want to work together going forward
- **Alec Davis**
 - Wanted to share an observation
 - Played with the mapping tool and notes that it deviates from IEPA's mapping tool
- **Commissioner Pressnall**
 - Noted that Commissioner Baker arrived
- **Commissioner Peck**
 - Commission should focus on an EJ standard for the entire state
- **Alec Davis**
 - People should explain the various EJ tools and the background
 - For example, CalEnviroScreen
- **Commissioner Pressnall**
 - Will keep working on Commission appointments
 - Strengthening bylaws
- **Chair Wasserman**
 - Folks should look at IPA's required format for submitting comments
 - Set priorities going forward
 - Next Commission meeting on December 13 at 10:30 am

IV. Next meeting date and location

December 13, 2017 – 10:30 am pm until 12:00 pm

V. Adjournment

- At 4:25 pm